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ELECTRONIC THESIS AND DISSERTATION UNSYIAH

TITLE

USING THINK-ALOUD METHOD IN TEACHING READING SKILL FOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (AN EXPERIMENTAL AT EIGHT GRADE STUDENTS OF SMP NEGERI 17 BANDA ACEH)

ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to know whether there is a significant improvement of students' reading comprehension after the teacher implemented Think-Aloud Method. This research applied quantitative design. The reason why the researcher uses this method is because according to Afflerbach and Johnston cited by McKeown and Gentilucci (2007), Think-Aloud Method serves firstly as a method of measuring the cognitive reading process which means Think-Aloud method can be used in order to solve the students problem in reading comprehension. The researcher want to find out if Think-Aloud Method improve the students' reading skill significantly and also want to find out if Think-Aloud Method improve the students' reading skill in identifying main idea and supporting details, identifying reference, making inference and interpreting vocabulary. The population was all the students of eight grades of SMP Negeri 17 Banda Aceh. The sample was the students of class eight-5. The researcher used one group pre-test and post-test design. The researcher administered pre-test, treatment and post-test to collect the data. The mean score of pre-test was 38.15 and post-test was 78.89. The critical value of t-table 0.05 significant levels was 1.71. The obtained of t-test value is higher than the critical value of t-table ($4.75 > 2.05$). Reading aspects that were improved the most are detailed information, main idea and inference. For the other aspects, such as vocabulary and reference were also improved, but not as much as the three aspects above. It means that the use of Think-Aloud Method could significantly improve the ability of the second grade students of SMPN 17 Banda Aceh in reading, especially in descriptive text. In conclusion, Think-Aloud Method can be used to improve the students' ability in reading. In short, the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted and null hypothesis (H_o) is rejected. To be considered, the researcher suggests to other researchers to use Think-Aloud Method as the reference for further study in teaching reading skill.